

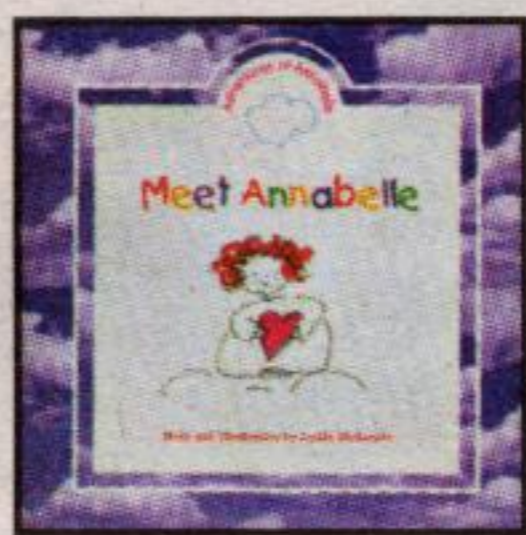
# Quick Look Christmas Books

BY DEBORAH QUAILE



## Meet Annabelle

Milton author and illustrator Lynda McKenzie has created Annabelle, a lovable little angel who undertakes all the necessary components of a heavenly life. Annabelle is a modestly sized full colour book that's "more than a card, yet less than a gift,"



as Ms. McKenzie says. Her whimsical work is also available on a line of greeting cards for various occasions alongside the boldly coloured "umbrella kids" and "ladies who wear hats and do lunch." Each of the lines makes its own statement, either inspiring, rib-tickling, or a celebration of the slightly outrageous.

Perhaps most interesting for Christmas are the Snow Angels cards that will spread joy to loved ones' hearts and provide profits for a worthy cause. Ms. McKenzie, an avid campaigner for Parkinson's Disease, is donating a portion of the proceeds from her work to Parkinson's research.

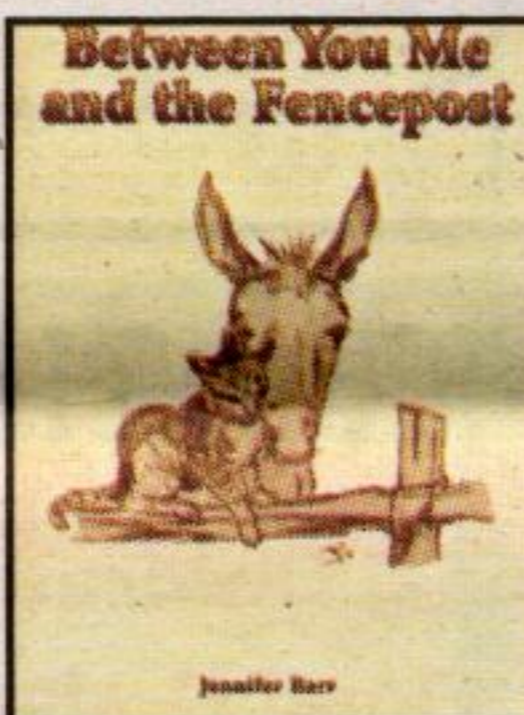
Meet Annabelle is available at

The Freckled Lion in Georgetown and Recycled Reading in Milton. The Christmas cards are available from the Parkinson's office at 1-800-565-3000. You can also visit Lynda McKenzie at [lyndamckenzie.com](http://lyndamckenzie.com)

## Between You, Me and the Fencepost

As a columnist for 12 years in Acton, Rockwood and Georgetown during the 1970s and 80s, Jennifer Barr recently published a collection of her favourite writings about life in a log house north of Acton that she and her family shared with an assortment of horses, donkeys and other odd animals.

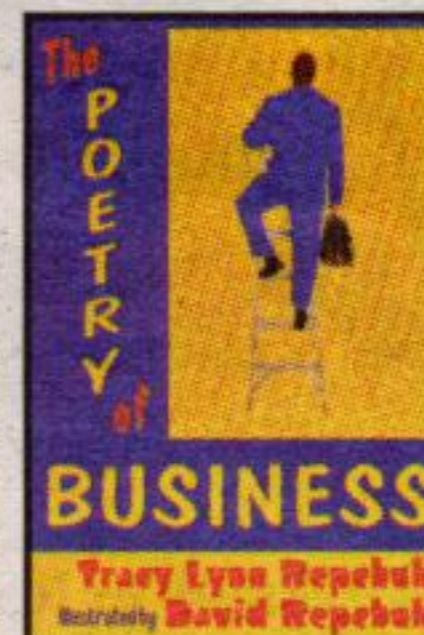
The 150-page softcover volume highlights the back-to-the-land movement that attracted a wide selection of individuals seeking a lifestyle closer to nature. With 10-acre plots, large vegetable gardens and a few chickens scratching around the doorstep "the granola generation was born," Ms. Barr notes. "Let's lean on the fence and take a little time to remember a gentler age of small town Ontario and a rural lifestyle full of interesting stories." These rural ramblings are relaxed conversations between writer and audience. Available at The Rose Garden, Rockwood; and The Olde Hide House and the Olde Book House, Acton.



## The Poetry of Business

Twenty years of entrepreneurial experience is combined with poetry in this first book by Tracy Lynn Repchuk, creating an unusual selection of pieces that introduce poems in a creative new venue. "My hope is to eliminate the barriers and misconceptions ... and have [readers] take another look at this insightful medium," she notes. In her own version of Poetry 101, Ms. Repchuk divides the topics into seven chapters and illustrates each style of poem with verse that grasps the nitty-gritty aspects of everyday business and presents it in thoughtful - or occasionally whimsical - words.

Tracy Lynn Repchuk took a self-imposed deadline of two weeks to produce her debut book, and used humorous illustrations created by her husband, David Repchuk. She is currently the National Coordinator of the Canadian Poetry Association. Available at [www.innersurf.com/publish.htm](http://www.innersurf.com/publish.htm).

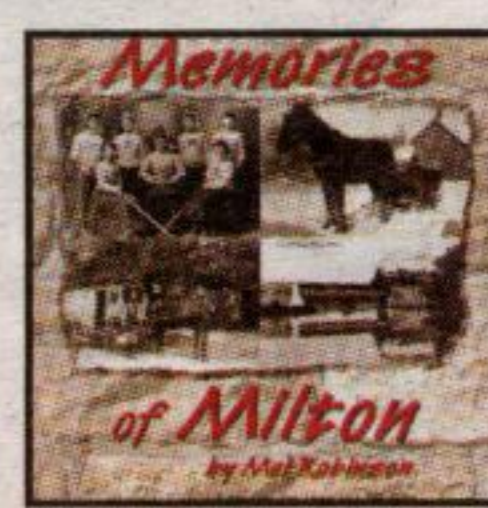


**Memories of Milton**  
In 1911 when Mel Robinson's family moved from Hamilton to Milton the young boy found that the budding town made a memorable impression. Boardwalks were the modern method of staying out of the mud. At noon and in the late afternoon Mr. Robinson would walk along Thomas Street to meet his father as he left his position of foreman at the P.L. Robertson company to enjoy a meal at home. Children loved to see cattle driven along Bronte Street to the Grand Trunk station yard where they were penned until their shipment to the stockyards. And in years before the Great War he saw his first motor car, shiny red and built like a horse-drawn buggy.

This glimpse into the early

## Memories of Milton

years of Milton came from a selection of columns written by the late Mel Robinson in the 1970s, dealing with everyday pleasures and problems in the early 1900s. Jim Dills and Ken Lamb edited the volume, and included "many images from various sources to illustrate the over 150 columns," Mr. Dills notes. *Memories of Milton* is available from the Milton Historical Society and local bookstores.



## Don't Name the Ducks

Although this isn't written by a local author, I received a copy of *Don't Name the Ducks*, and other truths about life in the country by Wendy Dudley, who found out about my penchant for good tales with a folksy flare. Ms. Dudley is a former Ontario resident whose family used to visit with Robert Bateman at his home on the Niagara Escarpment. An avid outdoor adventurer as a child, Ms. Dudley retained her love of wildlife and eventually purchased a ranch in the Alberta foothills. Together with her mother, she embarked on a hilarious and heartwarming journey with a pair of vociferous donkeys, a mule, one blind cat, a horse and a couple of dogs.

When a broken hip forced the writer, artist and media consultant into weeks of inactivity, Wendy Dudley developed a book that had long simmered in the back of her mind: the adventures of Burro Alley Ranch, where herding dogs are spooked by sheep, a bruin tries to sneak into the house for a bag of bananas, and soft-eyed deer offer "muletide" greetings. Readers can follow Wendy Dudley as she has humbling encounters with fence projects, visits good old fashioned country fares, or becomes "she who runs with the coyotes." Although slightly different from our local rural fare, this is nonetheless an engaging read. *Don't Name the Ducks* is a celebration of country life and a Pandora's box of surprises. Available in bookstores from Fifth House Publishers.



**Rockwood: A Mosaic of Memories**  
A new book by Deborah Quail  
A great Christmas gift!  
Available at  
Wetherby's, Pamper Me, Acton;  
Eden Place, Eden Mills;  
Global Genealogy, Milton;  
The Rose Garden, Pamper Me, Rockwood Pharmacy,  
Rockwood Wordbird Press

Happy Holidays from  
**COLOUR WORKS PRINTING INC.**  
Chris Rick Cheryl  
737 Main Street East, Milton, ON L9T 3Z3  
P: 905-876-3793 F: 905-876-1143  
email: [colourworks@on.aibn.com](mailto:colourworks@on.aibn.com)

**Great Gift Idea**  
Announcing Updated & Revised 2003 Edition!  
**HALTON**  
Rising, Wild, and Beckoning  
Your Guide to Halton  
Includes Foldout Map!  
All Proceeds Support Conservation  
905.336.1158 [www.conservationhalton.on.ca](http://www.conservationhalton.on.ca)

- 175 spectacular photographs
- Foreword by International Artist Robert Bateman
- 17 trail maps and driving tours
- New chapter on wildlife with introduction by scientist Dr. Joseph MacInnis
- Best ever full colour map of Halton's parks and natural areas
- Canadian Best Seller

**\$39.95 at bookstores everywhere!**

**Elizabeth's Fashions & Bridal Boutique**  
"The place to shop in Downtown Georgetown"  
Sparkling Holiday Fashions have arrived!  
Look your best this Holiday Season with Festive Fashions from Elizabeth's  
• Stunning Evening Gowns & Formal Separates by Joseph Ribkoff  
• Rich suedes & brocades from Susan Bristol & Jones New York  
• Themed Holiday Sweaters from Susan Bristol & Northern Isles  
**SALE! 20% off selected in-store items**  
Something special for every occasion!  
Hours: Mon. 9-5:00  
Tues./Wed. 10-6:00  
Thurs./Fri. 10-9:00  
Saturday 9:30-5:00  
[www.bridalsplendor.com](http://www.bridalsplendor.com)  
email: [fashions@idirect.ca](mailto:fashions@idirect.ca)  
77 Main St. South Georgetown  
905-873-1470  
MasterCard VISA

**THEATRE IN THE TREES**  
The Arboretum & University of Guelph  
Food, Friends and Frivolity  
Gift Certificates - A Great Idea!  
Enjoy a scrumptious hot & cold buffet along with the hilarious comedy  
**"Marriage Can Be Hazardous To Your Health"**  
\$53 per person (inclusive)  
February 7, 14, 21, 28;  
March 6, 13, 20, 27;  
April 3, 17, 24  
To order tickets call The Arboretum (519) 824-4120 ext. 54110  
[www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum](http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum)